

REMARKS

The Preliminary Amendment amends claims 3, 4, and 5 to clarify the claim dependency. Accordingly, claims 1- 5 are presently pending. Applicants respectfully request consideration of this preliminary amendment upon initial examination of the present application.

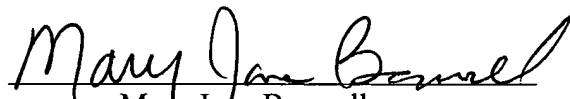
Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. §1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 23, 2004

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